REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 8 for a minor informality; rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lindquist et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,660) in view of Scoggins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,847) and Farris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,306); and rejected claims 3, 5, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lindquist et al. in view of Scoggins et al., Farris et al., and Gang, Jr. (U.S. 4,897,841).

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 3, 4, 8, 9, and 11-16 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 18, and 20 to improve form, and adds new claims 21-25. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with regard to the claims as amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, and 17-25 are pending.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 8 because the claim was identified as being amended in the last amendment, when the amendment did not contain an amendment for claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled by this amendment. Therefore, the objection with regard to claim 8 is moot. Applicant submits that the claim labels contained herein are accurate.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lindquist et al. in view of Scoggins et al. and Farris et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with regard to the claims as presented herein.

Initially, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20 based on a combination of Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al. Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection

is deficient for the following reasons. A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) requires that the Examiner make four factual inquires: (A) determine the scope and contents of the prior art; (B) ascertain the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue; (C) resolve the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and (D) evaluate evidence of secondary considerations. See M.P.E.P. 2141. In this case, the Examiner did not identify any differences between the Lindquist et al. disclosure and the invention recited in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20, but, nevertheless, rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on a combination of Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al.

The Examiner alleged that Lindquist et al. discloses each of the features recited in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20 (Office Action, page 3). The Examiner alleged that Scoggins et al. discloses features that are not recited in any of Applicant's claims (Office Action, pages 3-4). Therefore, the significance of the Scoggins et al. reference is unclear. The Examiner further alleged that Farris et al. discloses a feature recited in claim 1 (Office Action, page 4). Because the Examiner has not explained the significance of the Scoggins et al. reference and/or the Farris et al. reference with regard to the combination of features recited in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20, the Examiner's combination of Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al. is improper under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Nevertheless, Applicant submits that neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., nor Farris et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 17-20. For example, amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of transmitting packets between first and second networks of different address formats. The method comprises receiving, from a first network, a packet containing first

address data conforming to the first network format and second address data conforming to the second network format, where the first address data is contained in a packet header of the packet and the second address data is contained in an auxiliary header of the packet; swapping the first address data and the second address data within the packet; and transmitting the packet to the second network based on the second address data.

Neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., nor Farris et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in claim 1. For example, neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., nor Farris et al. discloses or suggests swapping first address data in a packet header of a packet with second address data in an auxiliary header of the packet, as required by claim 1.

At column 8, line 66 - column 9, line 15, Lindquist et al. discloses:

> As an example, when transmitting the first signal from the gateway STP 385 to the CCITT SS7 network 390, the ANSI SS7 network address representing the application module 340A is contained in optional fields not utilized by the CCITT SS7 network 390. As described previously, the Cgpa field is stored with the CCITT SS7 network address representing the gateway STP. Once the first signal is received, the application module 340B extracts the Cgpa value and transmits the return signal with the extracted value as the Cdpa. The optional fields are further transmitted without modification by the application module 340B. The return message is accordingly delivered to the gateway STP 385 as indicated by the specified Cdpa. After receiving the return signal, the gateway STP 385 extracts the ANSI SS7 network address from the optional fields of the return signal and, in turn, properly reroutes it to the intended application module 340A.

In this section, Lindquist et al. discloses that the gateway uses optional fields not used by the CCITT SS7 network to store an ANSI SS7 network address representing the application module 340A and stores its own address as the CCITT SS7 network address in a signal sent on the CCITT SS7 network (col. 8, line 66 - col. 9, line 5). In a signal returned from the CCITT SS7

network, the gateway extracts the ANSI SS7 network address from the optional fields and uses this address to route the signal on the ANSI SS7 network (col. 9, lines 5-15). Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, does Lindquist et al. disclose or suggest swapping first address data in a packet header of a packet with second address data in an auxiliary header of the packet, as required by claim 1. The disclosures of Scoggins et al. and Farris et al. provide nothing to cure these deficiencies in the disclosure of Lindquist et al.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claims 2, 17, and 18 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 6 recites features similar to features recited in claim 1. Claim 6 is, therefore, patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 7, 19, and 20 depend from claim 6 and are, therefore, patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 6.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lindquist et al. in view of Scoggins et al., Farris et al., and Gang, Jr. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Initially, Applicant notes that the rejection of claims 5 and 10 has the same deficiencies as noted above with regard to claims 1 and 6. In this case, however, the Examiner alleged that Lindquist et al. discloses all of the features recited in claims 1 and 6, but did not disclose any of the features recited in claims 5 and 10 (Office Action, page 5). The Examiner alleged that Gang,

Jr. discloses the features recited in claims 5 and 10 (Office Action, page 6). Because the Examiner has not explained the significance of the Scoggins et al. reference and/or the Farris et al. reference with regard to the combination of features recited in claims 5 and 10, the Examiner's combination of Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., and Gang, Jr. is improper under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Nevertheless, Applicant submits that neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., nor Gang, Jr., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in claims 5 and 10. Amended independent claim 5, for example, is directed to a method of transmitting packets between first and second networks of different address formats. The method comprises receiving, from a first network, a plurality of packets, where at least one of the packets contains first address data conforming to the first network format and second address data conforming to the second network format, and the first address data is contained in a packet header of the at least one of the packets and the second address data is contained in an auxiliary header of the at least one of the packets; making a search through a received packet to determine whether the received packet includes an auxiliary header; examining a database if the auxiliary header is not contained in the received packet to identify address data mapped to the first address data; converting the first address data with the identified address data; and transmitting the received packet to the second network based on the identified address data.

Neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., nor Gang, Jr., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests the combination of features recited in claim 5. For example, neither Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., nor Gang, Jr. discloses or

suggests making a search through a received packet to determine whether the received packet includes an auxiliary header, as required by claim 5. The Examiner alleged that Gang, Jr. discloses this feature and cited column 6, line 55 - column 7, line 3, of Gang, Jr. for support (Office Action, page 6). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

At column 6, line 55 - column 7, line 3, Gang, Jr. discloses that a bridge compares a received message to a table of addresses to determine whether the message is addressed to one of the stations connected to the bridge and, if the message is intended for a station connected to another bridge, encapsulates the message in a message addressed to the other bridge. Nowhere does Gang, Jr. disclose or suggest determining whether a received packet includes an auxiliary header, as required by claim 5.

Because Gang, Jr. does not disclose or suggest making a search through a received packet to determine whether the received packet includes an auxiliary header, Gang, Jr. cannot disclose or suggest examining a database if the auxiliary header is not contained in the received packet to identify address data mapped to the first address data, converting the first address data with the identified address data, or transmitting the received packet to the second network based on the identified address data, as further required by claim 5. The disclosures of Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., and Farris et al. provide nothing to cure these deficiencies in the disclosure of Gang, Jr.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., and Gang, Jr., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Amended independent claim 10 recites features similar to features recited in claim 5. Claim 10 is, therefore, patentable over Lindquist et al., Scoggins et al., Farris et al., and Gang,

Jr., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claim 5.

New claims 21-25 recite features not disclosed or suggested by the references of record. For example, claims 21 and 22 recite features similar to features recited in claims 1 and 5, respectively. Claims 21 and 22 are, therefore, patentable over the references of record for reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claims 1 and 5. Claims 23-25 depend from claims 22, 10, and 5, respectively. Claims 23-25 are, therefore, patentable over the references of record for at least the reasons given with regard to claims 22, 10, and 5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, and 17-25.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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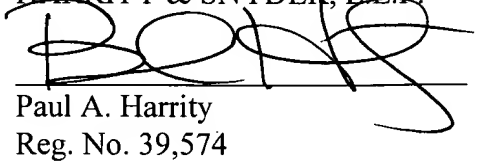

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